

LSTA Funding in 2005

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When crafting Michigan's LSTA Five-Year Plan of Service (2002-2007), the Library of Michigan conducted several forums around the state, soliciting feedback regarding the development, implementation and evaluation of a statewide LSTA program. Questions addressed during these sessions included how LSTA funds should be divided between statewide projects and individual grants and what LSTA funding priorities should be for Michigan. In general, most participants indicated that statewide resource sharing ought to be a priority, with the Library of Michigan leading this effort. The overwhelming majority felt that MeL and its components should be continued and expanded, even if such steps meant a reduction in individual grants. The "Library Services and Technology Act Five-Year Plan for Michigan October 2002 Through September 2007" is available at www.michigan.gov/lsta.

In several venues during the last year, the Library of Michigan and the LSTA Advisory Council has discussed the option of a hiatus from administering a LSTA subgrant program so that LSTA funding could be used to launch the MeLCat project. The fiscal year 2005 appropriations from the Institute of Museum and Library Services will be used for this purpose. MeLCat – the anytime, anywhere information delivery service – ultimately will serve and link *all* Michigan residents to the information they need, when they need it.

This means no grant workshops will be held this fall, and no FY05 LSTA handbook will be printed. What it does not mean is the permanent elimination of a subgrant program. We hope to offer an individual grant program again next year, in fiscal year 2006. Look for a program announcement in fall 2005.